

A MERRY PREACHER.

Frank Moulton and Mr. Beecher Expected to Testify This Week.

How He Dodges the Reportorial Demon.

THE SITUATION AT THE PRESENT TIME.

What Ex-Mayor Hall Knows About the Libel Suit.

A WOMAN SUFFRAGIST'S TALK.

The Newspapers and the Public on the Brooklyn Query.

THE SITUATION.

The situation and opinion touching the scandal case remained unchanged yesterday. There were no new characters brought upon the stage nor was a novel phase presented. The excitement has evidently subsided, or, in other words, the community has become so completely satiated with the subject that there appears to be a general desire to keep cool and exercise patience until the man of mystery, Mutual Moulton, may condescend to go before the Plymouth church investigating committee and tell all he knows. When this is done Mr. Beecher will present his statement and testify before the committee, and the world will then be enabled to judge between the innocence or guilt of the distinguished accused. It is deemed scarcely probable that

MR. BEECHER'S STATEMENT will be made public this week. Rev. Dr. Storrs will doubtless testify before the committee terminate their deliberations. A relative of Mr. Beecher, a gentleman who did not wish his name to be published, in speaking of the apologetic letters of the pastor to Moulton and Tilton yesterday, claimed that no one could read these letters, in view of the real facts in the case and of Theodore's own statement, and fail to perceive that such letters had nothing to do with the matter. "Mr. Moulton," said the gentleman referred to, "has declared to Rev. Mr. Halliday and others Mr. Beecher's innocence of any crime; and in his presence Mr. Halliday took down his affirmations in writing. Among other expressions written down was the following: 'I know more of this matter than any other man, and I know Mr. Beecher is innocent.' All this will appear in the evidence which the investigating committee will in good time present to the public through the press. If any combination has been entered into between Frank Moulton and Mr. Tilton to ruin Henry Ward Beecher, it is a very serious matter. The two, though it might possibly go hard with Mr. Beecher," the speaker said, "there is evidence to be presented that even Moulton and Tilton combined could not stand against without entailing ruin upon themselves."

MR. BOWEN, though much sought after at Woodstock, Conn., evidently preferring seclusion and quiet to the charm of journalistic society upon the question of the case, has been seen at the residence of the mother-in-law of Mr. Tilton, Mrs. Morse, called upon by Mr. Alden Spooner, a sponsor among the anti-Beecher forces, to obtaining divorce for her daughter, Elizabeth. Mrs. Tilton, however, declined to refer to the proposed suit or have anything to do with it, saying she would stand by Mr. Tilton to the last and would not listen to any proposition to the contrary. "And," said Mr. Spooner, "it is but just to all parties to state the fact that Elizabeth has been clinging to her husband against her mother. So the plea of divorce was abandoned, and as far as I know has never been renewed."

The generally which Mr. Tilton is supposed to have evinced in giving his full possession of his house and contents to the anti-Beecher forces, it is said, "appears to be questioned as somewhat insincere by the more intimate friends of Mrs. Tilton. He is said to have said that he would not give up his house until the case is over, as his domicile had become a notorious one and he would 'keep it for his battle ground.'"

The libel suit was dismissed from the discussions upon the scandal yesterday, and an impression prevails that it will be dropped by the attorney on Monday next out of place in a civil justice court.

A LEGAL OPINION BY A OAKLEY HALL.

One of our reporters, according to A. Oakley Hall in one of the courts, inquired whether in his long experience as District Attorney he had ever known of an interpreter making a criminal complaint.

Mr. Hall—I cannot recall an instance. The complainant is either the person whose rights or property have been injured or some friend in his necessary absence, and in his direct interest.

Reporter—Suppose a prosecutor refuses to prefer a complaint.

Mr. Hall—He cannot refuse. The police authority or the magistrate or the District Attorney, who may be convinced that the public welfare demands an investigation, can compel a complainant to appear and be examined.

Reporter—Then you think Justice Riley should have sent for Mr. Beecher and asked him whether he wished to prosecute?

Mr. Hall (smiling)—You are a sharp interrogator. For "should have" say "might have," then yes.

Reporter—Or he might have dismissed it?

Mr. Hall—Nine magistrates in ten would have done so. Libel is not a strictly personal offense, nor a purely public one. There is no statute on the subject of libel. It is a common law misdemeanor. It is simply constituted an offense because of the tendency of all libels to create individual animosities and to disturb the public peace. If I remember accurately, I think modern authorities agree with old Blackstone that this is the whole which the law considers in allowing prosecution for libel.

Reporter—Is there any rule of court about the matter?

Mr. Hall—There is a common usage. Our Supreme Court and the Court of Sessions and the common law courts of the City of New York have all held that a libel is a crime and that it is not to be granted an information for libel unless the prosecutor who applies for it (and by this it means the party libeled) makes affidavit asserting directly and positively that he is innocent of the charge imputed to him.

Reporter—Which would imply that Mr. Beecher could not be prosecuted?

Mr. Hall—I think, clearly. How could he say the libel was false and malicious? Only the person who libeled knew that. There is no necessary preliminary. Besides, as before said, it is the tendency to provoke breach of the peace which solely impels criminal prosecution for libel. Of this the authorities were the best judges.

Reporter—Certainly; and Mr. Gaynor could hardly have expected Mr. Beecher or his friends to be prosecuted to comply with the law. Mr. Hall—Or the Attorney General.

Reporter—What do you think of District Attorney Winslow's impartiality in the matter? Is he a member of the so-called Beecher court?

A FUNNY TALK WITH MR. BEECHER.

The *Argus* yesterday published a funny interview with Mr. Henry Ward Beecher. The author, "the talk" in question met the pastor of Plymouth church on the corner of Court and Montague streets on Wednesday night, and, upon accounting him, the supposed dialogue ensued:—

"I suppose," said Mr. Beecher, "you would like to have me say something."

"Well, Mr. Beecher, it would afford me profound pleasure to hear you say anything, but I am not particularly interested in you, and I would be particularly delighted to have you say something about the case of the Plymouth church."

Mr. Beecher—Well, if you want to interview me, you can. Come along here, if you are not otherwise engaged, and I will talk to you."

Mr. Beecher then took the reporter's arm and proceeded through the Heights to Mr. Beecher's residence.

"By the way," queried Mr. Beecher, "hasn't there a committee of some kind in session somewhere around here?"

Reporter—You ought to know that better than I do.

Mr. Beecher—Oh, not at all; for newspaper men know almost everything, or at least you make people believe so. I am, you know, something of a man of letters, and I have been known to write for the press. There are, to be sure, some black sheep among them; but I think they will compare very favorably with any other profession in the world. This is the case of the clergy, for instance.

Mr. Beecher—What do you mean by that?

Mr. Beecher—Well, I have known a good many of them to go to church—Plymouth, of course, I mean—and to do good. I know, for they are not necessarily the most sensitive and observing portion of the congregation.

Reporter—Have you the detailed statement which you promised to read?

Mr. Beecher—No, I am free to say to you that I have been, and still am, and I will continue to work at it.

Now, how much do you think you can write out of this? I have been saying to you.

Reporter—That depends upon how much more you may say seriously. You are evidently in a hurry, but I think you ought to say a few words to the public.

Mr. Beecher—She'll tell you a great deal more than I can say. I have been saying to you that I have been, and still am, and I will continue to work at it.

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the highest regard for Elizabeth Tilton, and at the same time insisting that she was a woman of more than ordinary brain. Is that consistent? Do you think Mr. Tilton had confessed criminality to her, and she would have been as extravagant in her praise? It doesn't seem to me."

"Certainly does not seem natural."

"The thought of it after free love ideas. This was before we knew Mrs. Woodhull. He told the story to Mrs. Bullard and Mrs. Stanton, and Mrs. Stanton says, 'Then after Mrs. Woodhull was in New York, and she was a woman of more than ordinary brain. Is that consistent? Do you think Mr. Tilton had confessed criminality to her, and she would have been as extravagant in her praise? It doesn't seem to me.'"

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satisfy the American public as to Mr. Beecher's character, and that course is an impartial trial in open court, and the witnesses put upon their oaths and a jury that is not prejudiced against either party. The trial will be a prompt one. The sooner it is over the better, however it may turn out.

Religion Will Not Suffer.

[From the Cooperstown (N. Y.) Journal.]

On one other point we desire to add a word:—The fear is constantly and earnestly expressed that the fall of Mr. Beecher—whatever may be the depth of that fall—will inflict a serious blow on the cause of religion and sound morality. We do not participate in that fear, mainly for the reason the greatest leader is so very small compared with the cause.

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NEW MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS.

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